

IMPORT HEALTH REQUIREMENTS OF GREAT BRITAIN FOR DOGS, CATS, OTHER MAMMALS FROM THE UNITED STATES

Great Britain requires an import license for all dogs, cats, and other rabies-susceptible mammals including those taken to a place outside the British Isles and subsequently brought back to Great Britain. No dog or cat may be imported unless an import license has been granted on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (or the Secretary of State for Scotland if appropriate).

Subject to the issue of an import license every imported dog or cat must be detained and isolated, at the owner's expense, at approved quarantine premises for 6 months from the date of its landing (or for such longer period as the Minister may direct). As soon as practicable after arrival at the quarantine premises, the animal must be vaccinated by the Veterinary superintendent with anti-rabies vaccine as specified by the Minister, and again 4 weeks later. A dog or cat may be released from quarantine at any time for immediate exportation.

To obtain an import license,

1. Reserve accommodation for the animal at one of the approved quarantine premises*. It is advisable that quarantine premises should be chosen following a visit by a representative or personal references whenever possible. It is also advisable to book well in advance of the date of importation, particularly during the holiday months. If an urgent reply is required prepaid cable, telex, or airmail charges are usually required by the quarantine premises proprietor;
2. Reserve the services of one of the authorized carrying agents* (some quarantine premises are also authorized carrying agents). If an import license is granted, it will be sent to the carrying agent and he will meet the animal at the port/airport of disembarkation, clear it through Customs and be responsible for its safe custody to the quarantine premises concerned;
3. When confirmation from both quarantine premises and the carrying agent is received that booking has been accepted; application (Form ID 1*) should be completed and sent to Rabies Branch, MAFF, Hook Rise South, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 7NF. (If the animal is to be quarantined in Scotland, send the application to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland, Chesser House, 500 Gorgie Road, Edinburgh.

*Lists of kennels and carrying agents and license application forms can be obtained from British Information Service, 845 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022.

EHLL 3AW.) Quarantine premises may submit applications on behalf of an owner, but only applications in writing on the appropriate form (ID 1) are acceptable;

4. It is advisable to make quarantine arrangements and apply for a license, at least 8 weeks, and

certainly no later than 4 weeks, before the proposed importation date.

The Ministry will confirm the bookings with the quarantine premises and the carrying agent concerned and approximately 6 weeks prior to the date of importation will then:

1. Issue the license to the carrying agent; and
2. Send a "boarding document" and crate label, which will confirm the license reference (IDY No) and also act as written evidence which a shipper or airline will require before allowing the animal to be embarked.
3. Animals may be landed in Great Britain only at the following ports/airports:

Ports	Airports
Dover Eastern Docks	Birmingham
Harwich Navy Yard Wharf	Edinburgh
Hull	Gatwick
Liverpool	Glasgow
International Hoverport	Heathrow
(Pegwell Bay) Ramsgate	Leeds
Southampton	Manchester
	Prestwick

It is an offense to try to land an animal at any other port/airport unless in an emergency situation; e.g., diversion because of bad weather.

4. Animals imported into Great Britain by air must travel as manifested freight in the freight compartment of an aircraft and NOT excess passenger baggage. In no circumstances will animals be allowed to travel in the passenger cabin section. For animals traveling by air, a label will be supplied by MAFF/DAFS and must be handed to the airline to affix to the crate containing the animal before it will be accepted for embarkation. This ensures the crate is identifiable as containing an animal subject to quarantine.